economic insight | **by lecia parks langston, economist**

County Rankings from the
American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates:
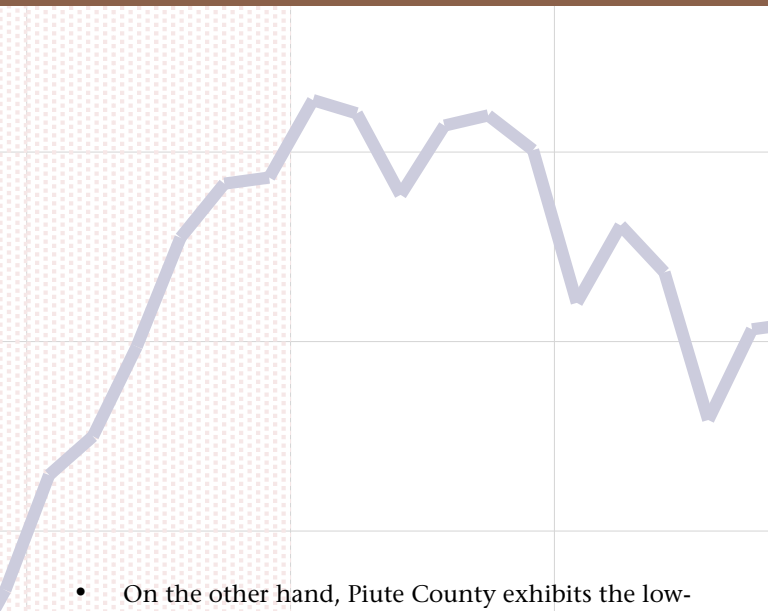
enough to excite any

DATA GEEK!

Perhaps you've seen the Nerd Venn Diagram that has been floating around the blogosphere lately. It defines nerds, geeks, dweebs, dorks based on three characteristics—social ineptitude, intelligence, and obsession. Now, I've always considered myself a data geek and according to the diagram that means I'm intelligent and obsessive. I don't know about the intelligence part, but when it comes to data, I'm certainly obsessive. If I had my way, I'd get to fill this entire publication with graphs and insights about the Census Bureau's recently released five-year estimates from the American Community Survey.

There's so much great information available, particularly if your county is small, and you haven't seen any demographic data since the 2000 Census. But, I've only got a few pages to fill. So, I'm providing some county-ranking tidbits that I hope will stimulate you to do a little obsessive data-delving of your own. This data reflects estimates for 2005-2009.
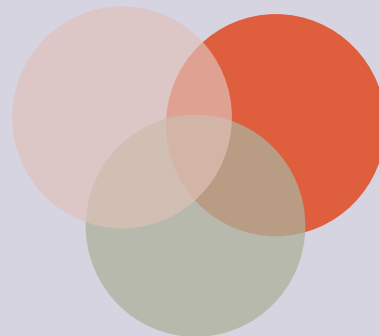
• Kane County has the oldest median age (44 years); Utah County the youngest (23 years).

• Beaver County maintains the highest share of population over the age of 85 (3 percent); Daggett County the lowest (0.6 percent).

• Rich County shows the top percentage of population in the "White/Not Hispanic or Latino" category (97 percent); San Juan County, with its high share of Native Americans, has the lowest--only 39 percent.

• On average, Wayne County workers have the shortest commute time (11 minutes); Tooele County workers, the longest (29 minutes).

• Utah County households are the largest (average of 3.8 individuals); Daggett County households are the smallest (2.1 individuals).

• Garfield County demonstrates the lowest percentage of never-married men over the age of 15 (10 percent); Utah County, the highest (38 percent).

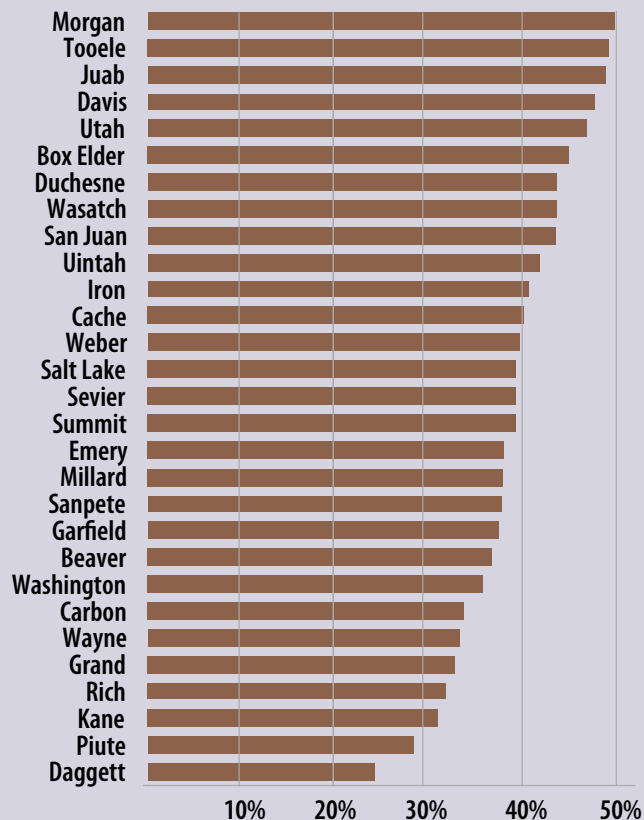DO SOME OBSESSIVE DATA-DELVING OF YOUR OWN!

- On the other hand, Piute County exhibits the lowest percentage of never-married women over the age of 15 (8 percent); Cache County, the highest (34 percent).

- Washington County has the highest percentage of homes built since 2005 (9 percent); Emery County, the lowest (0.3 percent).

- Piute County shows the highest percentage of veterans in the population (16 percent); Utah County the smallest (6 percent).

- In Garfield County, over 60 percent of married couples are both in the labor force, the highest rate in the state. In Piute County, both spouses are in the labor market only 37 percent of the time.

- Morgan County ranks number one for the percentage of households that are married couple families (77 percent) while only 48 percent of Grand County households include a married couple.

- Morgan County also tops the list for the percentage of workers commuting outside of their county of residence for work—60 percent cross county lines for employment. On the other end of the spectrum, less than 5 percent of Grand County employees leave the county for work.

- With more than 48 percent of adults over 25 with at least a Bachelor's degree, Summit County residents are the best educated in Utah. Beaver County residents have the lowest percentage of adults with a Bachelor's degree—less than 12 percent.

To access the American Community Survey five-year estimates for your county, go to: http://factfinder.census.gov and click on "get data" under the "American Community Survey" heading. 🔘

Percent of Households With One or More Persons
UNDER 18 YEARS
2005-2009

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2005-2009.